

Haley Creek Swamp State Natural Area

[Program Property Page](#)

Property Overview

Haley Creek Swamp State Natural Area (SNA) is a 484-acre property located in west-central Florence County southwest of the town of Florence, in an area of extensive public lands and private lands open to public recreation, including the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest, and Florence County Forest lands. The property consists of four discontinuous tracts. Three of the four are located just south of the westernmost portion of the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers (the Savage-Robago lakes area). The fourth tract is located within the Wild Rivers boundary, encompassing two small spring ponds known as Dorothy Lake and Mud Lake, just south of Savage Lake. Haley Creek Swamp was designated as a SNA in 2007.

This SNA features an undisturbed wetland complex with the two undeveloped spring ponds, fen, old-growth conifer swamp, and a mile-long segment of Haley Creek, a high-quality coldwater stream. The conifer swamp is dominated by white cedar, black spruce, and tamarack, and is surrounded by old-growth hemlock-hardwoods in the uplands. The western edge of the site contains superior-quality white cedar stands that support numerous rare plants. The forest on this property is the only remnant of the former Goodman timber block that still retains old-growth characteristics with mature stand structure.

Public Use and Recreation Facilities

The property is open to hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and gathering of wild edibles. Hunting and hiking are the primary uses. A primitive road passing near the northernmost tract, which is within the Wild Rivers boundary, provides access to Dorothy Lake and Mud Lake. Access to the other tracts is restricted to foot travel. There are no recreation facilities on the property. Recreation facilities are available on surrounding or nearby Wild Rivers, Forest Legacy, Florence County, and National Forest lands.

Natural Resources Management

The SNA is managed as an old-growth forest and aquatic/wetland reserve. It is also intended to provide opportunities for research and education on the highest quality native forested wetland communities. Natural processes determine the structure of the forest, and passive management is the primary approach. There is active management to control invasive species.

Special Attributes

The entire Haley Creek Swamp SNA property is included within the boundaries of a “Primary Site” identified by the department for special consideration in this planning process. Primary sites generally encompass the best examples of 1) rare and representative natural communities and 2) documented rare species populations with opportunities for restoration or connections. Such sites warrant high protection and/or restoration consideration during the development of a property master plan. Primary Sites can be considered High Conservation Value Forests for Forest Certification. The Primary Site that includes Haley Creek Swamp SNA is:

- Goodman Wild Lakes and Pine River (5,972 acres)

Haley Creek Swamp SNA is included within the Nicolet Hemlock-Hardwoods [Conservation Opportunity Area](#) identified in the [Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan](#). The property is also included in the Savage-Robago lakes area identified as a [Wetland Gem](#) by the [Wisconsin Wetlands Association](#).

Haley Creek has been designated as an [Outstanding Resource Water \(ORW\)](#). These, along with Exceptional



Resource Waters (ERW) are surface waters which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. ORWs receive the state's highest protection standards.

